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⑪ Publication number:

0 181 216
A3

⑫

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑬ Application number: 85308104.0

⑮ Int. Cl. 4: G 01 V 1/30

⑭ Date of filing: 07.11.85

Best Available Copy

⑯ Priority: 08.11.84 US 669501
08.11.84 US 669502
08.11.84 US 669503
08.11.84 US 669504
08.11.84 US 669505

⑰ Date of publication of application:
14.05.86 Bulletin 86/20

⑯ Date of deferred publication of search report: 01.04.87

⑰ Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

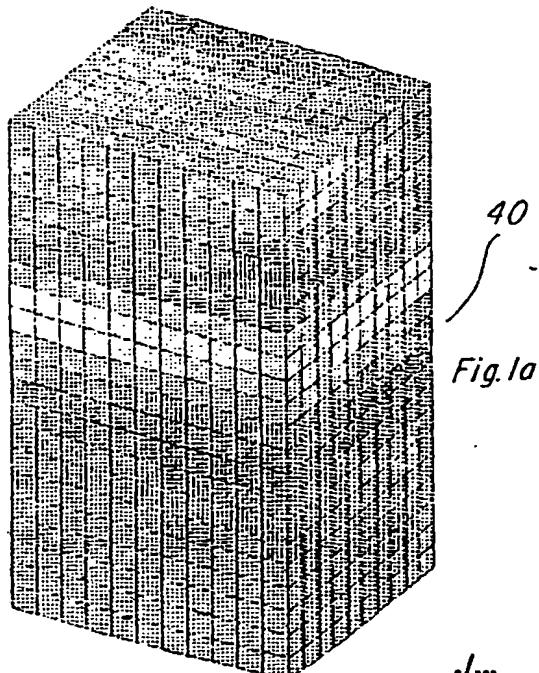
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⑰ Method and apparatus for automatically producing representations of three-dimensional horizons from processed seismic data.

⑰ An electronic system automatically produces representations of three-dimensional recommended horizons (50a-50e) from processed seismic data (40). Significant events, in the form of turnings, are identified in all of the digitized traces that make up the processed seismic data. Pairs of significant events in adjacent traces are determined. The system determines these pairs through a mutual nearest neighbor technique, together with a technique for detecting similar signs. The system measures the curvature of the path formed by the paired turnings in successive digital traces and terminates the path at any point where the curvature exceeds a predetermined limit. The system then looks for three-dimensional continuity by looking for a closed loop of at least four turnings making up four pairs of turnings. These techniques yield at least one horizon represented in a first format. The recommended horizon (50a-50e), represented in a second format, is essentially extracted by the system through a recursive "walking" procedure for identifying all of the turnings in the recommended horizon and designating those turnings in the second format. At the same time, vertical uniqueness of each of the turnings in the recommended horizon is examined and if a subsequent turning is found to be on the same digital trace as a prior detected turning, the subsequent turning is not permitted. The second format is used for storage of the horizon and subsequent display.



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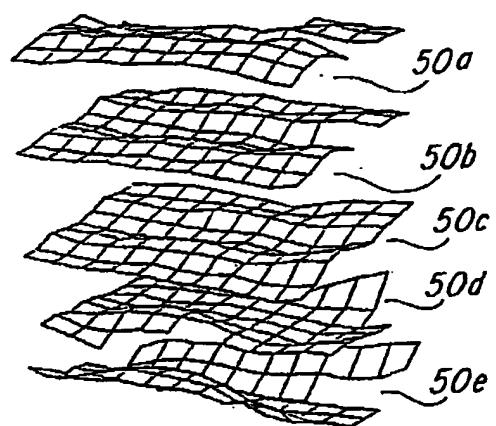


Fig.1b



EP 85 30 8104

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl 4)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	FR-A-2 110 978 (CONTINENTAL OIL) * Claims 1,3,4,8,10,12 *	1,19	G 01 V 1/30
A	--- OIL & GAS JOURNAL, vol. 80, no. 42, October 1982, pages 143-146, Tulsa, Oklahoma, US; K. LEMCKE: "Computer aided 3D seismic interpretation"		
A	--- GB-A-1 175 700 (MOBIL OIL)		
A	--- GB-A-1 219 823 (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS)		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl 4)
	-----		G 01 V
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	14-11-1986	HAASBROEK J.N.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date		
A : technological background	D : document cited in the application		
O : non-written disclosure	L : document cited for other reasons		
P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		



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(21) Application number: 85308104.0

(51) Int. Cl.⁴: G 01 V 1/30

(22) Date of filing: 07.11.85

(30) Priority: 08.11.84 US 669501
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08.11.84 US 669503
08.11.84 US 669504
08.11.84 US 669505

(43) Date of publication of application:
14.05.86 Bulletin 86/20

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turning, the subsequent turning is not permitted. The second format is used for storage of the horizon and subsequent display.

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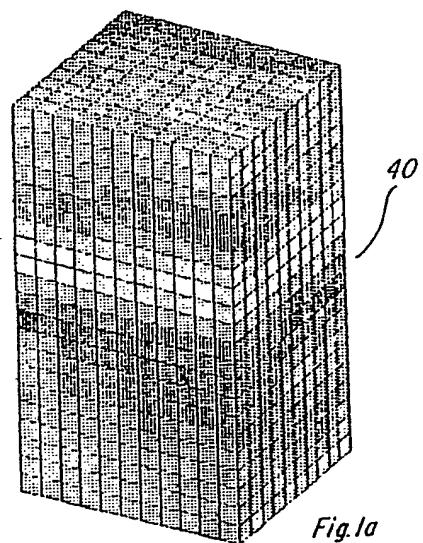


Fig. 1a

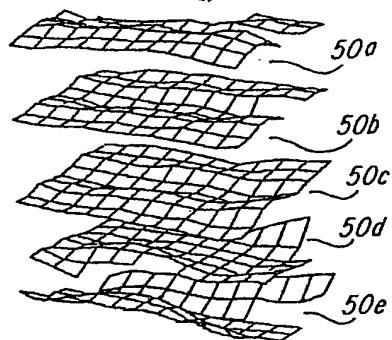


Fig. 1b

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCING REPRESENTATIONS
OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL HORIZONS FROM PROCESSED SEISMIC DATA

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the analysis of seismic data and specifically to an electronic system for automatically producing 5 horizons from processed seismic data.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

In the past, human interpreters solved the problem of producing horizons of three-dimensional seismic events mentally, using paper and colored pencils, or computer graphics, to draw a 10 seismic event as it intersects successive two-dimensional seismic sections of a data volume. Once two-dimensional events along the three-dimensional surface have been picked, the two-way times to each of the 2-D events are determined and a variety of different types of maps are drawn to illustrate information about the event 15 surface. The primary disadvantage of this approach is that it is very time-consuming and tedious for the human interpreters. The task of drawing maps or horizons of event surfaces is easily automated once the events are picked, but the picking is very time-consuming. A prior art method for picking and mapping 20 events in 2-D seismic sections has been achieved. This previous approach to determining significant changes by amplitude zero-crossings in seismic traces essentially amounts to an assertion that the significant changes of interest are primarily determined by points where the trace changes sign. This technique 25 is not well-suited to mapping seismic events whose amplitudes change signs.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A digital computer system automatically produces

representations of three-dimensional recommended horizons from processed seismic data. The seismic data is in the form of a 3-D volume of individual seismic traces in a digital format.

Significant seismic events, in the form of turnings, are identified in all of the digitized traces that make up the processed seismic data. These turnings are defined as zero-crossings in the Nth derivative of a seismic trace. The digitized seismic traces of this invention are represented by a series of points. An approximation of the Nth derivative at each point is made. A zero-crossing in the Nth derivative determines a turning point. A turning occurs at the location of each such zero-crossing and the sign of the turning is the sign of the (N+1)th derivative at that point. This technique is described and claimed in copending U. S. Patent Application, Serial No. 15 (TI-10060) 669,504.

Next, in the X and Y directions, through the 3-D data volume, pairs of turnings are determined. In this preferred embodiment, pairs of turnings are determined through the use of the mutual nearest neighbor technique. In this technique, a pair occurs wherever two turnings, taking one each from adjacent traces, are mutual nearest neighbors. That is, point A is the nearest neighbor of point B, and point B is the nearest neighbor of point A. This mutuality presumes that the two turnings occurred on the same three-dimensional seismic surface (horizon).

25 The signs of the turnings are then determined, and if alike, further assure that points A and B are in the same horizon. The sign of each turning is the sign of the (N+1)th derivative at each zero-crossing. The determination of pairs of turnings is described and claimed in copending U. S. Patent Application, 30 Serial No. (TI-10058) 669,505.

The curvature of the path formed by the paired turnings in successive digital traces, in both the X and Y direction, is examined. If the curvature is too extreme, the path is

terminated. Restricting pairs of turnings in this manner eliminates some implausible 3-D seismic events.

Three-dimensional continuity is then tested. This is done by looking for closed loops containing four turnings formed by 5 four pairs of turnings. The existence of such a closed loop helps to assure that the seismic event has three-dimensional extent as a surface, and not just as a curve. When a pair is not a part of such a closed loop, the pair is eliminated. This examination and modification of tentative horizons is described 10 and claimed in copending U. S. Patent Application Serial No. (TI-10064) 669,503.

By reason of the system performing the above steps, one or more horizons have been defined within the three-dimensional block of data.

15 The defined horizons may now be, in essence, extracted from the 3D data volume for ease of display and handling in general. This is done by the system through reformatting from the network format, resulting from the above treatment, to an array format.

At the same time, another analysis is performed to determine 20 that defined horizons are not interconnected. A test for vertical uniqueness is performed by excluding any subsequent turning on the same digital trace as a prior detected turning. This vertical uniqueness assures that a horizon cannot spiral. An array format provides a more convenient representation of each 25 horizon. The arrays are better suited for storage and display than the networks. This extraction of horizons is described and claimed in copending U. S. Patent Application, Serial No. (TI-10059) 669,501.

The object of this invention is to provide a system that 30 automatically defines three-dimensional horizons from a three-dimensional volume of processed seismic data. This and other objects will be made evident in the detailed description that follows.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1A illustrates a three-dimensional volume of seismic data.

Figure 1B illustrates three-dimensional horizons produced 5 from the volume of Figure 1A, using the method and apparatus of this invention.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of the computer system of this invention.

Figure 3 illustrates a typical trace in analog form. 10 Figure 4 illustrates two analog traces in the application of the mutual nearest neighbor criterion.

Figure 5 is a reproduction of Figure 4 except that the effect of also requiring like signs is illustrated.

Figures 6A-6H illustrate traces and indicate horizons 15 determined from zeros of successive derivatives taken with $N=0$ at Fig. 6A and $N=7$ at Fig. 6H.

Figure 7 illustrates the low curvature criterion.

Figure 8A illustrates 3-D continuity of four turnings forming four pairs of turnings. 20

Figure 8B, from a top view, illustrates 3-D continuity.

Figure 9 illustrates vertical uniqueness.

Figure 10 illustrates transitivity of the pair relation to reformat to the array format.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Three dimensional seismic data is collected typically 25 through the use of vibrators for land data collection and air guns for sea data collection. In either event, the data is collected, processed, and presented as a three-dimensional volume formed of digitized traces. The traces are represented as a 30 series of points, each point being described digitally. By examining the series of points for significant seismic events and by interrelating significant events between traces, three dimensional horizons may be developed.

The processed three-dimensional seismic data sections traditionally have been interpreted by human experts. A tedious and time-consuming task that the interpreter must perform is to pick seismic events through the volume and to map the time and 5 amplitude structure of the events. This invention addresses the problems of automatically picking and mapping three-dimensional seismic event horizons.

Figure 1A illustrates a typical processed three-dimensional seismic data volume 40. The gradations in shade are 10 generally proportional to changes in amplitude of the seismic signal returned as a result of a seismic source such as a vibrator or air gun having been activated.

Figure 1B indicates typical three-dimensional horizons 50a-50e that lie within three-dimensional seismic volume 40 where time is the vertical dimension. These horizons are the end 15 result of this invention and may be displayed as shown on paper, or may be displayed in the face of a cathode ray tube, or any other display apparatus. The horizons may be viewed from any direction, of course, and other information about the horizon, 20 such as the seismic amplitudes on the surface, may also be displayed. Horizon, in the strict geophysical sense, means "geological interface". As used in this invention, horizon means "interpreter's sketch of a surface through seismic data." The wavelengths of the source typically imparted into the earth in 25 seismic exploration are of such a magnitude as to preclude the detection of all "geological interfaces". Therefore, the horizons that are referred to in this specification are surfaces in the three-dimensional seismic volume 40 that are estimated to be everywhere locally parallel to the "geologic interfaces".

30 The automatic production of the horizons 50a-50e is accomplished in four steps:

Step 1: Determine and describe significant points of change along each seismic trace.

Step 2: Determine pairs of turnings such that the turnings within pairs lie on the same three-dimensional seismic event.

Step 3: Determine seismic event surfaces (horizons).

Step 4: Produce physical maps of the seismic event surfaces 5 (horizons).

Figure 2 illustrates the LISP machine of this invention, a LAMBDA machine made by LISP Machines, Inc. The LAMBDA system and the use of the LISP programs in the Appendix, are set out in detail in the following manuals of LISP Machine, Inc.:

10 "Introduction to the LISP System" - 1983

"ZMACS-Introductory Manual" - 1983

"ZMAIL Manual" - April 1983;

"Window System Manual" - August 1983;

"Lisp Machine Manual" - January 1983;

15 "System 94 Release Notes" - Undated

In block form, a LISP processor 11 is connected via bus 17 (a Texas Instruments NuBusTM type bus) to a Motorola 68000 processor 12, main memory 13, display controller 14 and system diagnostic unit 15. Display controller 14 controls video display 20 which is connected to RS232 interface 18. The video display 20 may be used for displaying the representation of the three-dimensional section 40 and for the display of the horizons 50a-50e. Keyboard 22 and mouse 21 are connected to video display 20 for interaction therewith. SMD disk controller 23 controls 25 disk drive 25 which is used for storage as is main memory 13. Printer 30 is connected to RS232 port 29 which in turn is connected through the system diagnostic unit 15 to LISP processor 11, main memory 13 and SMD disk controller 23. The printer 30 is therefore accessible to a storage unit for 30 receiving a representation of the horizons 50a-50d for printing hard copies of the desired images.

Turning now to Figure 3, Step 1 as carried out by system 10 will be described. For the purpose of description, each

significant point of change along a seismic trace is a turning. The description of a turning includes its position in the volume, the amplitude of the seismic trace at that position, and its sign (negative or positive). Trace 51 is represented in an 5 analog manner. Points 52-58 represent turning points in the case where turnings are defined by zero-crossings in the first derivative. In fact, trace 51 is represented by a series of digital numbers. Each number signifies an amplitude. Turning points 52, 54, 57 and 58 have positive amplitudes and points 53, 10 55, and 56 have negative amplitudes. However, the signs of the turning are determined by the $(N+1)$ th derivative of the trace and therefore the sign of turnings 54, 55 and 56 are positive while the sign of turning points 52, 53, 57 and 58 are negative. The turning points are determined using zero-crossings in the N th 15 derivative. The turnings have the advantage of distinctly marking significant changes such as local extrema, saddle points, inflections and other high-order changes. This is in contrast to prior art methods of looking at the zero crossings of the original trace as significant. Exactly which changes are marked can be 20 controlled by varying the value of N , a parameter of step 1. The derivative at each sample point, t_0 , is approximated as follows:

1. Let t_- , t_0 , and t_+ be the times of three consecutive sample points.

2. Let $A(t)$ be the amplitude of the trace at time t .

25 3. Then the derivative, D , of the trace at t_0 is computed by:

$$D(t_0) = (A(t_+) - A(t_-))/2$$

This approximation for computing the derivative is derived from the parabola P , passing through $(t_-, A(t_-))$, $(t_0, A(t_0))$, 30 and $(t_+, A(t_+))$. $D(t_0)$ is the slope of P at t_0 . The solution is simple because the sample points are regularly spaced at unit intervals, allowing the following property of parabolas to be

exploited:

Theorem: Let $P(x) = AX^2 + BX + C$. Then the derivative of P at a value half way between two values, v and w , is the slope of the line through $(v, P(v))$ and $(w, P(w))$. That is:

$$P'((v+w)/2) = (P(w)-P(v))/(w-v).$$

5

Higher order-derivatives are computed by iterative applications of the scheme for calculating the derivative as shown above.

In principle, the first derivative defines turnings at local extrema and saddles of the seismic trace. The first derivative therefore captures attributes of an important turning point quite well. The second derivative defines turnings at inflections and straight segments of the trace. In that case, the term "turning" is somewhat of a misnomer, but the inflections 15 may serve just as well or better than the local extrema and saddles for a given trace. As N becomes larger, smoother and more complete three-dimensional horizons are produced. In practice, $N=7$ has the advantage of marking changes or mapping that are ordinarily not noticed by human inspection. This may be 20 seen by an inspection of Figures 6A-6H where Figure 6A illustrates traces with $N=0$. Figure 6B illustrates $N=1$, Figure 6C illustrates $N=2$, and so on with Figure 6H illustrating $N=7$. The implementation of this step 1 may be seen in the appendix beginning on Page 2 thereof under the title "STEP 1: DETERMINE 25 TURNING POINTS".

By specifying only those points that are turning points in the N th derivative, data compaction is accomplished. Of course, a variety of other techniques, including frequency domain filters,

may be employed to approximate the derivatives.

30 Figure 4 illustrates traces 60 and 61 having the mutual nearest neighbor criterion applied. The mutual nearest neighbor

criterion was originally devised and used for solving problems in computer vision as set out in the Ph.D dissertation "A Computational Theory of Spatio-Temporal Aggregation for Visual Analysis of Objects in Dynamic Environments" by Bruce E. 5 Flinchbaugh, The Ohio State University, June 1980.

This mutual nearest neighbor criterion has been applied in the past to seismic interpretation relating to two dimensional seismic sections. This prior art technique involved the two-dimensional lineation of wavelets. Wavelets are defined as 10 that portion of a wiggle trace between amplitude zero-crossings when $N=0$. A lineation refers to a two-dimensional horizon in a 2-D seismic section. However, a technique is applied herein for the first time to a three-dimensional volume 40. That is, the mutual nearest neighbor criterion is applied in the X direction 15 and in the Y direction to each and every turning using Nth derivative of every trace making up the three-dimensional volume 40.

In Figure 4, turning point A is shown connecting to turning point B. That is, the nearest neighbor to point A of trace 60 in 20 trace 61 is point B. Likewise, the nearest neighbor to point D of trace 60 is point E of trace 61. The nearest neighbor to point F of trace 60 is point G of trace 61. In a similar manner, the nearest neighbor to point B of trace 61 is point A of trace 60. The nearest neighbor of point E of trace 61 is point D of 25 trace 60. The nearest neighbor to point G of trace 61 is point F of trace 60. The nearest neighbor of point C of trace 60 is point B of trace 61, but because point B's nearest neighbor is not point C, point C does not have a mutual nearest neighbor, thus point C is not paired with any turning. It should be noted 30 that while these traces are shown in a 2-D analog representation, the mutual nearest neighbor is based only on the time dimension which is the vertical dimension as shown in Fig. 4.

Turning point D has been paired with turning point E.

Turning point E has a radically different character from turning point D because its $(N+1)$ th derivative is positive while turning point D's is negative. Likewise, turning point G's $(N+1)$ th derivative is negative while turning point F's is 5 positive.

Figure 5 illustrates that turning points D and E may not be linked nor may turning points F and G. This prohibition against such links is made based on the assumption that the character of a three-dimensional seismic horizon, as represented by the sign 10 of the turning cannot change radically between adjacent traces. Therefore, the criterion is that the signs must be homogeneous. The implementation of the mutual nearest neighbor and homogeneous 15 signs criteria may be seen in the appendix on page 3 under the heading "STEP 2: DETERMINE PAIRS OF TURNINGS ON THE SAME HORIZON", extending to page 6 to the heading "APPLY-LOW-CURVATURE-CRITERION".

Each turning point, through this implementation, has now been identified as being paired with up to four other turnings, one in each of the four directions from the turning (the positive 20 and negative X and Y directions).

As a part of Step 2, the curvature of the path formed by the paired turnings in successive digital traces is assessed in both the X and Y directions. In Figure 7 line segments are drawn between paired turnings to represent path 70 through turnings H, 25 J, K, L, and M. The curvature of the path at K is assessed by considering the slope, m_1 , of the segment between J and K, and the slope, m_2 , of the segment between K and L. If m_1 and m_2 differ by more than a predetermined value, the path 70 is "cut" at K by eliminating the pairs (J, K) and (K, L). The 30 predetermined value is a parameter of the method. In other words, a pair can only occur when the curvature of the path through the turnings of the pair, together with the turnings of an incident pair in the same direction, is less than a maximum

curvature. Restricting pairs of turnings in this manner helps to rule out implausible three-dimensional seismic horizons. The implementation of the low curvature criterion may be studied in the Appendix beginning at page 6 under the heading 5 "APPLY-LOW-CURVATURE-CRITERION".

Step 2 also includes a requirement of three-dimensional continuity. This criterion requires that a pair can only occur wherever the pair is a link in a closed loop of turnings. Restricting pairs of turnings in this manner helps to assure that 10 pairs are on seismic events that have three-dimensional extent as a horizon. This criterion is based on the assumption that if two turnings lie on a three-dimensional seismic event, then other turnings lying on the same event surface are nearby. Specifically, this criterion is described as follows:

15 Let T_1 and T_2 be sets of turnings such that T_1 contains the turnings from one seismic trace and T_2 contains the turnings from an adjacent trace in any direction within the seismic data section. Let a closed loop of turnings be an ordered list of at least three turnings, $(t_0, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$, such that the t_i are 20 distinct and the following pairs exist:

$((t_0, t_1), (t_1, t_2) \dots (t_{n-1}, t_n), (t_n, t_0))$. Then t_1 in T_1 and t_2 in T_2 may only form a pair when a closed loop of turnings exists that include t_1 and t_2 .

Closed loops spanning just a few (e.g., four) traces in 25 closely spaced three-dimensional seismic data can be assumed to bound a region of a surface that intersects those traces. Reference to Figures 8A and 8B should now be made where, in Figure 8A, four traces T_a , T_b , T_c and T_d are shown. Turning point pairs (a, b) (b, c) (c, d) and (d, a) are shown forming a 30 closed loop. The four turning points, $a-d$, form four pairs of turnings as indicated and also form a closed loop. On the other hand, pairs of turnings (g, e) and (e, f) do not form a closed loop and therefore do not define any surface.

A top view of a closed loop concept is shown in Figure 8B. It can be seen that areas connected together are areas of four turnings forming four pairs of turnings in a closed loop configuration. However, the pairs of turnings (n,q) (m, n) (p, q) and (m, p) do not form a closed loop. That is, there is no pairing between turning points m and p. Therefore, the pairing (n, q) is removed and only distinct horizons 73 and 74 are determined. As may be seen in the Appendix beginning on page 7 under "APPLY-3-D-CONTINUITY-CRITERION". In that implementation, four turnings forming four pairs of turnings provide three-dimensional continuity. A pair that does not satisfy the criterion is "isolated" and rejected.

After Steps 1 and 2 are completed, the horizons have been determined within the three-dimensional volume 40. To fully identify the horizon, however, entry is made at one of the turning points defining that horizon and then all of the remaining turning points that are directly or indirectly connected to the entry turning point are collected. Reference should be made to Figure 10 to illustrate the criterion as a part of step 3. Turning point d2 is paired with turning point a2 which in turn is paired with turning point b2 which in turn is paired with turning point c2. Therefore, turning points c2 and d2 are in the same horizon. The horizon occurs therefore wherever turnings in a collection are related (directly or indirectly) by pairs. This criterion allows explicit determination of the informational content and three-dimensional extent of horizons.

This criterion is described as follows: Let the relation (pair) (t_i, t_j) , indicate that t_i and t_j are turnings of the same horizon. This relation is transitive. t_1 and t_3 belong to the same horizon when pair (t_1, t_2) and pair (t_2, t_3) belong to the same horizon, because pair (t_1, t_3) is implied. The transitive property is used to complete the pair relation. The specific

implementation may be studied in the Appendix beginning on page 7 under "STEP 3: EXTRACT HORIZONS". This reformatting results in an array format. The array format is appropriate for use in the printer 30 and video display 20 of Figure 2 for displaying the 5 recommended horizons.

Also, it may be that one horizon is connected to another horizon. Step 3 eliminates connections between horizons. A horizon can contain only turnings such that no turnings are positioned with one directly above the other. This criterion 10 prevents spiraling horizons and assists in determining separate horizons as follows:

Let the horizontal position of a turning, t_i , be (x_i, y_i) . Then turnings t_1 and t_2 can only be part of the same horizon if (x_1, y_1) is not (x_2, y_2) , i.e., if at most one turning of the 15 horizon lies in any given trace in the volume 40. Thus, each turning of a horizon is guaranteed to be "vertically unique". Implementation of vertical uniqueness is shown in the Appendix, on page 8 under "ADD-TURNING-TO-HORIZON".

Figure 9 illustrates the application of this criterion. 20 That is, a complete loop is not achieved because points a_1 and e_1 appear on the same trace T_a . A collection of turnings of a horizon may include a_1 and d_1 , but turning e_1 may not be included in a horizon that includes turning points a_1, b_1, c_1 and d_1 .

25 The apparatus for both printing and CRT display are well known, as are the manner in which that apparatus operates. For a specific implementation, please refer to the Appendix beginning at page 8 under "STEP 4: DISPLAY HORIZONS".

While this invention has been described in specific steps 30 and in specific hardware, it is contemplated that those skilled in the art may readily substitute hardware and method steps without departing from the scope of this invention which is limited only by the appended claims.

; -- Mode:Lisp; Package:Amos; Base:10. --*

Bruce Flinchbaugh

:AMOS

======
AMOS: Automatic Mapping of Seismic Events

Terminology

The term, Horizon, as used in this program, refers to a surface computed by the Amos method. In other documents and implementations the surfaces are called, variously, Reflector Parallels, Seismic Event Surfaces, and Seismic Events. Horizon is used here for simplicity; the surfaces do not necessarily correspond to actual horizons (geologic interfaces).

```
(defflavor AMOS
  (
    ;3D array of seismic amplitudes, indices: Time, X, and Y.
    (Data      nil)
    ;3D array, the Nth partial derivative of Data w.r.t. Time.
    (Dn-Data  nil)
    ;Integer, the order of the partial derivative in Dn-Data.
    (N        1)
    ;Number, the maximum allowed local change in horizon dip.
    (D        0.5)
    ;2D array of lists of Turning Points, indices: X and Y.
    (Turnings nil)
    ;List of horizons computed by the Amos method.
    (Horizons nil)
    ;Window in which maps of the horizons are displayed.
    (Window terminal-io)
    ;List of numbers defining bins of Data times for maps.
    (Time-Bins nil)
    ;List of numbers defining bins of Data amplitudes.
    (Amplitude-Bins nil)
  )
  ()
  :settable-instance-variables
  (:documentation
    "The Amos flavor coordinates the Amos method. To use the method
     make an instance, providing the Data array as an Init Option, and
     send the instance the :COMPUTE-HORIZONS message. N, D, and Window
```

```

  are optional Init Options."
))

(defmethod (amos :COMPUTE-HORIZONS) ()
  "Constructs the Horizons representation using the Amos method and
  displays maps of the horizons."
  ;Step (1).
  (send self :determine-turning-points)
  ;Step (2).
  (send self :determine-pairs-of-turnings-on-the-same-horizon)
  ;Step (3).
  (send self :extract-horizons)
  ;Step (4).
  (send self :display-horizons))

```

```

# |=====
      TURNING POINT REPRESENTATION
===== |#

```

```

(defflavor TURNING
  (
    ;Integer, the X coordinate of the location in Dn-Data.
    (X      0)
    ;Integer, the Y coordinate.
    (Y      0)
    ;Number, the interpolated time of the zero-crossing.
    (Time   0.0)
    ;Number, the interpolated amplitude.
    (Amplitude 0.0)
    ;Number, the sign (+/-1) of the partial of Dn-Data at Time.
    (Sign   0)
    ;Nearest neighboring turnings in the Time directions (+/-).
    (Nt+    nil)
    (Nt-    nil)
    ;Nearest neighboring turnings of the same horizon in the
    ;X and Y directions (+/-).  Initially each is just the
    ;nearest neighboring turning on the adjacent trace.  At the
    ;end of Step (2) they connect only paired turnings.
    (Nx+    nil)
    (Nx-    nil)
    (Ny+    nil)
    (Ny-    nil)
    ;Array representing the horizon, if any, of this turning.
    (Horizon nil)

```

```

)
()
:settable-instance-variables
(:init-keywords (:specification))
(:documentation
  "The Turning flavor represents a Turning Point in the Amos method.
  The Specification Init Option, (Time Data Dn-Data), specifies that
  a turning occurs on the trace between Time and Time+1.  Amplitudes
  interpolated for the turnings are used when displaying horizons."))

(defmethod (turning :AFTER :INIT) (init-options)
  "Initializes the Time, Amplitude, and Sign of the turning."
  (let* ((t1 (first (get init-options :specification)))
         (data (second (get init-options :specification)))
         (dn-data (third (get init-options :specification)))
         (t2 (+ t1 1))
         (v1 (aref dn-data X Y t1)) ;Nth partials at t1 and t2.
         (v2 (aref dn-data X Y t2))
         (a1 (aref data X Y t1)) ;Amplitudes at t1 and t2.
         (a2 (aref data X Y t2)))
    (setq Time (/ (- (* (- v2 v1) t2) v2) (- v2 v1))
          Amplitude (let ((m (/ (- a2 a1) (- t2 t1))))
                      (+ (* m Time) (- a2 (* m t2)))))
          Sign (if (> v2 v1) 1 -1)))
  #|=====
      STEP 1: DETERMINE TURNING POINTS
  =====|#
  (defmethod (amos :DETERMINE-TURNING-POINTS) ()
    "Constructs the Turnings representation."
    (send self :compute-nth-partial-derivative-of-data)
    (send self :mark-zero-crossings-in-nth-derivative))

  (defmethod (amos :COMPUTE-NTH-PARTIAL-DERIVATIVE-OF-DATA) ()
    "Computes the nth partial derivative of Data with respect to Time,
     leaving the result in Dn-Data."
    (setq Dn-Data (make-array (array-dimensions Data) :type :art-q))
    ;Dn-Data is just Data in case N = 0.
    (copy-array-contents Data Dn-Data)
    (loop with data* = (make-array (array-dimensions Data) :type :art-q)
          repeat N do
            (copy-array-contents Dn-Data data*)
            (send self :compute-partial-derivative data* Dn-Data)))
  
```

```

(defmethod (amos :COMPUTE-PARTIAL-DERIVATIVE) (data* d1-data*)
  "Computes the partial derivative of DATA* with respect to Time,
  leaving the result in D1-DATA*."
  (loop with (xdim ydim tdim) = (array-dimensions data*)
        for x below xdim do
        (loop for y below ydim do
              ;Compute derivatives at times 1 through TDIM - 2:
              (loop for time from 1 to (- tdim 2) do
                  (aset (/ (- (aref Data x y (+ time 1))
                               (aref Data x y (- time 1)))
                           2.0)
                        d1-data* x y time))
              ;(Special cases):
              ;Compute derivatives at times 0 and TDIM - 1.
              (aset (- (aref Data x y 1) (aref Data x y 0))
                    d1-data* x y 0)
              (aset (- (aref Data x y (- tdim 1))
                        (aref Data x y (- tdim 2)))
                    d1-data* x y (- tdim 1)))))

(defmethod (amos :MARK-ZERO-CROSSINGS-IN-NTH-DERIVATIVE) ()
  "Constructs the Turnings representation, creating one Turning for
  each zero-crossing in Dn-Data. The original implementation of the
  Amos method also created Turnings for zero-touchings; the touchings
  are omitted here for simplicity."
  (loop with (xdim ydim tdim) = (array-dimensions Dn-Data)
        initially (setq Turnings
                         (make-array (list xdim ydim) :type 'art-q))
        for x below xdim do
        (loop for y below ydim do
              (aset ;Check for turning in each interval [time,time+1]:
                    (loop for time from 0 to (- tdim 2)
                          for value-at-time = (aref Dn-Data x y time)
                          for value-at-time+1 = (aref Dn-Data x y
                                                     (+ time 1))
                          if (or (and (plusp value-at-time)
                                       (minusp value-at-time+1))
                                 (and (minusp value-at-time)
                                       (plusp value-at-time+1)))
                          collect (make-instance
                                   'turning :x x :y y
                                   :specification
                                   '(,time ,Data ,Dn-Data)))
              Turnings x y))))
```

```

# =====
      STEP 2: DETERMINE PAIRS OF TURNINGS ON THE SAME HORIZON
# =====

(defmethod (amos :DETERMINE-PAIRS-OF-TURNINGS-ON-THE-SAME-HORIZON) ()
  "Scans the Turnings representation to set the Nx+/- and Ny+/- pointers to adjacent turnings of the same horizon."
  (send self :initialize-nearest-neighbors)
  (send self :apply-pairing-criteria))

(defmethod (amos :INITIALIZE-NEAREST-NEIGHBORS) ()
  "Sets the Nt+/-, Nx+/-, and Ny+/- pointers to the nearest neighboring turnings in the indicated directions."
  ; Initialize the Nt+/- pointers (these simplify operations later):
  (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
        for x below xdim do
        (loop for y below ydim do
              (loop with previous-turning = (first (aref Turnings x y))
                    for current-turning in (cdr (aref Turnings x y)) do
                    (send previous-turning :set-nt+ current-turning)
                    (send current-turning :set-nt- previous-turning)
                    (setq previous-turning current-turning)))
        ; Initialize the Nx+/- pointers:
        (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
              for y below ydim do
              (loop
                for x from 1 below xdim
                for previous-turning-list = (aref Turnings (- x 1) y)
                for current-turning-list = (aref Turnings x y) do
                (send self :initialize-nearest-neighbors-between-two-traces
                      :set-nx+ previous-turning-list current-turning-list)
                (send self :initialize-nearest-neighbors-between-two-traces
                      :set-nx- current-turning-list previous-turning-list))
        ; Initialize the Ny+/- pointers:
        (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
              for x below xdim do
              (loop
                for y from 1 below ydim
                for previous-turning-list = (aref Turnings x (- y 1))
                for current-turning-list = (aref Turnings x y) do
                (send self :initialize-nearest-neighbors-between-two-traces
                      :set-ny+ previous-turning-list current-turning-list)
                (send self :initialize-nearest-neighbors-between-two-traces
                      :set-ny- current-turning-list previous-turning-list))

```

```

:set-ny- current-turning-list previous-turning-list)))
)

(defmethod (amos :INITIALIZE-NEAREST-NEIGHBORS-BETWEEN-TWO-TRACES)
  (set-n* turning-list-a turning-list-b)
  "Sets the Nx+/- or Ny+/- pointer, as indicated by SET-N* (e.g.
   :SET-NX+), of each turning in the A list to the nearest B list
   turning."
  (loop for a-turning in turning-list-a
        if (not (null turning-list-b))
        do (loop with previous-b-turning = (first turning-list-b)
                 for current-b-turning in (cdr turning-list-b)
                 until (> (send current-b-turning :time)
                            (send a-turning :time))
                 do (setq previous-b-turning current-b-turning)
                 finally
                 (if (or (null current-b-turning) ;=> 1 b-turning.
                         (< (abs (- (send a-turning :time)
                                      (send previous-b-turning
                                            :time)))
                             (abs (- (send a-turning :time)
                                      (send current-b-turning
                                            :time))))))
                     (send a-turning set-n* previous-b-turning)
                     (send a-turning set-n* current-b-turning)))))

(defmethod (amos :APPLY-PAIRING-CRITERIA) ()
  "The four criteria in Step 2 of the Amos method are applied to prune
  and adjust the pointers."
  (send self
        :apply-mutual-nearest-neighbor-and-homogeneous-signs-criteria)
  (send self :apply-low-curvature-criterion)
  (send self :apply-3d-continuity-criterion))

(defmethod
  (amos :APPLY-MUTUAL-NEAREST-NEIGHBOR-AND-HOMOGENEOUS-SIGNS-CRITERIA)
  ()
  "Scans all turnings, adjusting pointers according to the MNN and HS
  criteria in all four directions."
  (send self
        :determine-nearest-neighboring-candidates-with-equal-signs)
  (send self :prune-according-to-mutual-nearest-neighbor-criterion))

(defmethod
  (amos :DETERMINE-NEAREST-NEIGHBORING-CANDIDATES-WITH-EQUAL-SIGNS) ()

```

```

"Scans all turnings. Each turning votes for the most appropriate
pairing, according to the MNN and HS criteria, in each direction."
(loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
      for x below xdim do
      (loop for y below ydim do
            (loop for turning in (aref Turnings x y) do
                  (send self :vote-for-nearest-equal-sign-candidate
                        turning :nx+ :set-nx+)
                  (send self :vote-for-nearest-equal-sign-candidate
                        turning :nx- :set-nx-)
                  (send self :vote-for-nearest-equal-sign-candidate
                        turning :ny+ :set-ny+)
                  (send self :vote-for-nearest-equal-sign-candidate
                        turning :ny- :set-ny-)))))

(defmethod (amos :VOTE-FOR-NEAREST-EQUAL-SIGN-CANDIDATE)
           (turning n* set-n*)
           "The N* pointer of TURNING is adjusted to the nearest neighboring
            turning in that direction that agrees in sign. An additional
            criterion is applied to preserve the property of mutual nearest
            neighbor pairings that no pairings cross; pointers that may result
            in such a crossing are set to NIL."
           (let ((n*-turning (send turning n*)))
             (if (not (null n*-turning))
                 ;If the turnings agree in sign
                 ;then N* is already the right vote.
                 (if (= (send turning :sign) (send n*-turning :sign)))
                     ;Consider changing N* to the next nearest turning
                     ;without crossing:
                     (if (> (send turning :time) (send n*-turning :time))
                         ;TURNING is below N*-TURNING so consider the next
                         ;lowest one:
                         (let ((n*t+ (send n*-turning :nt+)))
                           (if (and (not (null n*t+))
                                     (= (send turning :sign) (send n*t+ :sign)))
                               (send turning set-n* n*t+)
                               (send turning set-n* nil)))
                         ;TURNING is above N*-TURNING so consider the next
                         ;highest one:
                         (let ((n*t- (send n*-turning :nt-)))
                           (if (and (not (null n*t-))
                                     (= (send turning :sign) (send n*t- :sign)))
                               (send turning set-n* n*t-)
                               (send turning set-n* nil)))
                         ;N.B. The case of TURNING having the same time as
                         )))))

```

```

;N*-TURNING is treated as the "above" case.. It would be
;better to pick the nearest of N*T+ and N*T-, as in the
;original implementation.
)))))

(defmethod
  (amos :PRUNE-ACCORDING-TO-MUTUAL-NEAREST-NEIGHBOR-CRITERION) ()
  "Sets NX/Y/+//- pointers to NIL if they are not in the mutual nearest
  neighbor relation."
  (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
        for x from 0 below xdim do
        (loop for y from 0 below ydim do
              (loop for turning in (aref Turnings x y) do
                    (send self :prune-according-to-mnn-directionally
                          turning :nx+ :set-nx+ :nx-)
                    (send self :prune-according-to-mnn-directionally
                          turning :nx- :set-nx- :nx+)
                    (send self :prune-according-to-mnn-directionally
                          turning :ny+ :set-ny+ :ny-)
                    (send self :prune-according-to-mnn-directionally
                          turning :ny- :set-ny- :ny+)))))

(defmethod (amos :PRUNE-ACCORDING-TO-MNN-DIRECTIONALLY)
  (turning n*a set-n*a n*b)
  "Prunes the N*A pointer of TURNING if it does not point to a turning
  in the mutual nearest neighbor relation with TURNING."
  (if (and (not (null (send turning n*a)))
            (not (eq turning (send (send turning n*a) n*b))))
      (send turning set-n*a nil)))

(defmethod (amos :APPLY-LOW-CURVATURE-CRITERION) ()
  "Scans all pairings, removing those that violate the low curvature
  criterion."
  (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
        for x from 0 below xdim do
        (loop for y from 0 below ydim do
              (loop for turning in (aref Turnings x y) do
                    (send self
                          :prune-according-to-low-curvature-directionally
                          turning :nx- :set-nx- :nx+ :set-nx+)
                    (send self
                          :prune-according-to-low-curvature-directionally
                          turning :ny- :set-ny- :ny+ :set-ny+)))))

(defmethod (amos :PRUNE-ACCORDING-TO-LOW-CURVATURE-DIRECTIONALLY)

```

```

        (turning.n*- set-n*- n** set-n**)
"Prunes the incident pairings in the * direction if the change in
dip between the two pairings is greater than D. Dip is computed
in the (X, Y, Time) space where traces are spaced at unit intervals
in the X and Y directions and Time is measured in sample points.
It would be more appropriate to compute dip using the actual trace
intervals (in meters) and the true times (in milliseconds)."
(let ((turning-n*- (send turning n*-))
      (turning-n** (send turning n**)))
  (cond
    ((and (not (null turning-n*-))
          (not (null turning-n**)))
     (> (abs (- (- (send turning :time)
                    (send turning-n*- :time))
                  (- (send turning-n** :time)
                     (send turning :time))))
           D))
     (send turning-n*- set-n** nil)
     (send turning      set-n*- nil)
     (send turning      set-n** nil)
     (send turning-n** set-n*- nil)))))

(defmethod (amos :APPLY-3D-CONTINUITY-CRITERION) ()
  "Scans all pairings, removing those that violate the three-
dimensional continuity criterion."
  (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
        for x from 0 below xdim do
        (loop for y from 0 below ydim do
              (loop for turning in (aref Turnings x y) do
                    (send self
                          :prune-according-to-3d-continuity-directionally
                          turning :nx+ :set-nx+ :nx- :set-nx- :ny+ :ny-)
                    (send self
                          :prune-according-to-3d-continuity-directionally
                          turning :ny+ :set-ny+ :ny- :set-ny- :nx+ :nx-))
              )))
  )

(defmethod (amos :PRUNE-ACCORDING-TO-3D-CONTINUITY-DIRECTIONALLY)
  (turning na+ set-na+ na- set-na- nb+ nb-)
  "Eliminates the NA+ pairing of TURNING if the pairing is not part of
  a local loop on either side (in the B+ or B- direction) of the
  pairing."
  (cond
    ((and (not (null (send turning na+)))
          (not (or (send self :local-loop-ties-p

```

```

        turning .na+ .nb+ .na- .nb-)
  (send self :local-loop-ties-p
        turning na+ nb- na- nb+))))
  (send (send turning na+) set-na- nil)
  (send turning set-na+ nil)))))

(defmethod (amos :LOCAL-LOOP-TIES-P) (turning &rest n*i)
  "Returns T iff TURNING is reached by following the four n*i
  pointers, starting from TURNING."
  (loop for n* in n*i
        for current-turning first (send turning n*)
        then (send current-turning n*)
        until (null current-turning)
        finally (return (eq turning current-turning)))))

# =====
      STEP 3: EXTRACT HORIZONS
=====

(defmethod (amos :EXTRACT-HORIZONS) ()
  "Collects turnings connected by the pairings determined in Step 2
  into horizons, constructing the Horizons representation."
  (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions Turnings)
        for x from 0 below xdim do
        (loop for y from 0 below ydim do
              (loop for turning in (aref Turnings x y)
                    if (and (null (send turning :horizon))
                            (or (not (null (send turning :nx+)))
                                (not (null (send turning :nx-)))
                                (not (null (send turning :ny+)))
                                (not (null (send turning :ny-))))))
                    do (send self :extract-horizon turning)))))

(defmethod (amos :EXTRACT-HORIZON) (turning)
  "Collects turnings connected to TURNING by the pairings determined
  in Step 2 into a horizon array and adds it to Horizons."
  (let ((horizon (make-array (firstn 2 (array-dimensions Data))
                            :type 'art-q)))
    (send self :add-turning-to-horizon turning horizon)
    (push horizon Horizons)))

(defmethod (amos :ADD-TURNING-TO-HORIZON) (turning horizon)
  "If TURNING is not already part of a horizon and HORIZON does not
  already have a turning at the (X,Y) position of TURNING (enforcing
  
```

the Vertical Uniqueness criterion), then TURNING is added to HORIZON and all turnings paired with TURNING are added to HORIZON (using the Transitivity of the Pair Relation criterion)."

```
(cond
  ((and (not (null turning))
         (null (send turning :horizon))
         (null (aref horizon (send turning :x) (send turning :y))))
   (send turning :set-horizon horizon)
   (aset turning horizon (send turning :x) (send turning :y))
   (send self :add-turning-to-horizon (send turning :nx+) horizon)
   (send self :add-turning-to-horizon (send turning :nx-) horizon)
   (send self :add-turning-to-horizon (send turning :ny+) horizon)
   (send self :add-turning-to-horizon (send turning :ny-) horizon))))
```

```

# |=====
STEP 4: DISPLAY HORIZONS
=====|#
=====

(defmethod (amos :DISPLAY-HORIZONS) (&optional (attribute :time))
  "Displays color maps of the Horizons, one by one, in Window.  The
  ATTRIBUTE values, :TIME or :AMPLITUDE, are indicated by color.
  After each display the program waits for any character to be typed
  before proceeding to map the next horizon."
  (if (null Amplitude-Bins)
      (send self :compute-amplitude-bins-for-data))
  (loop for horizon in Horizons do
        (send Window :clear-screen)
        (send self :display-horizon horizon attribute)
        (tyi)))

;ART-Q-16 of ART-4B-8-1's; colors 0:15 respectively:
(defvar 4-BIT-COLORS)

;ART-Q-16 of ART-1B-32-4's; B&W patterns for colors 0:15:
(defvar 1-BIT-COLORS)

(defmethod (amos :DISPLAY-HORIZON) (horizon attribute)
  "Displays a color map of the ATTRIBUTE of HORIZON in Window.  If
  ATTRIBUTE is :AMPLITUDE all amplitudes lying within the same
  Amplitude-Bin (defined by :COMPUTE-AMPLITUDE-BINS-FOR-DATA) are
  displayed in the same color.  If ATTRIBUTE is :TIME the time range
  of the horizon is divided into fourteen equal color bins.  The
  (X=0,Y=0) corner of the map appears in the lower-left corner of the
  window.  The X axis is horizontal and the Y axis is vertical."
  (if (eq attribute :time)
      (send self :compute-time-bins-for-horizon horizon))
  (multiple-value-bind (width height) (send window :inside-size)
    (tv:prepare-sheet (window)
      (loop with screen = (tv:sheet-screen-array window)
            and left = (tv:sheet-inside-left window)
            and top = (tv:sheet-inside-top window)
            and (hxdim hydim) = (array-dimensions horizon)
            with pixel-width = (max 1 (/ width hxdim))
            and pixel-height = (max 1 (/ height hydim))
            with wxmax = (+ left (* pixel-width
                                     (- (min hxdim width) 1)))
            and wymax = (+ top (* pixel-height
                                     (- (min hydim height) 1)))
            with colors = (if (eq 'art-1b (array-type screen))

```



```
1e34))))
```

```
(defmethod (amos :COMPUTE-TIME-BINS-FOR-HORIZON) (horizon)
  "Sets Time-Bins to a list of numbers defining fourteen equal
  divisions of the time range of HORIZON. Time values are negated so
  that time zero is assigned the largest color number. Thus the time
  color maps are analogous to elevation maps: structural highs of
  horizons are assigned larger color numbers than structural lows."
  (loop with (xdim ydim) = (array-dimensions horizon)
        and min-time = 1e34
        and max-time = -1e34
        for x from 0 below xdim do
        (loop for y from 0 below ydim
              for turning = (aref horizon x y)
              if (not (null turning))
              do (let ((time (- (send turning :time))))
                   (if (< time min-time) (setq min-time time))
                   (if (> time max-time) (setq max-time time))))
        finally
        (setq Time-Bins
              '(-1e34
                ,(loop with bin-width = (// (- max-time min-time) 13.0)
                      repeat 13
                      for bin from (+ min-time bin-width) by bin-width
                      collect bin)
                1e34)))))

(defmethod (amos :COLOR-FOR-TURNING) (turning attribute)
  "Returns a color (bin number) for the ATTRIBUTE of TURNING."
  (multiple-value-bind
      (t0 t1 t2 t3 t4 t5 t6 t7 t8 t9 t10 t11 t12 t13 t14)
      (values-list (selectq attribute
                            (:amplitude Amplitude-Bins)
                            (:time Time-Bins)))
      (let ((attribute-value (send turning attribute)))
        (if (eq attribute :time)
            ;Negate time so structural highs have largest color values:
            (setq attribute-value (- attribute-value)))
        ;Binary search for the corresponding attribute-value bin:
        (if (>= attribute-value t7)
            (if (>= attribute-value t11)
                (if (>= attribute-value t13)
                    (if (>= attribute-value t14) 15 14)
                    (if (>= attribute-value t12) 13 12))
                (if (>= attribute-value t9)
```



```

do (aset array 1-bit-colors..color))

(eval-when (load eval)
  (create-4-bit-colors)
  (create-1-bit-colors))

# =====
; Convenience Functions for System Use
# =====

;List of all instances of AMOS during a session:
(defvar *AMOS-INSTANCES* nil)

(defun APPLY-AMOS-METHOD
  (&optional (data nil) (window terminal-io) (n 1) (d 0.5))
  "Applies the Amos method to DATA, displaying the resulting time
  structure maps in WINDOW.  If DATA is NIL, a 3D array of
  hypothetical data is used obtained via CREATE-SEISMIC-DATA-ARRAY."
  (let ((amos (make-instance 'amos
    :data (if (null data)
              (create-seismic-data-array)
              data)
    :window window
    :n n
    :d d)))
    (push amos *amos-instances*)
    (send amos :compute-horizons)))

(defun CREATE-SEISMIC-DATA-ARRAY
  (&optional (x-dim 10) (y-dim 10) (time-dim 20)
    (trace-generation-function #'sin)
    (dip-generation-function #'dome-generation-function))
  "Returns an array of hypothetical seismic data suitable for Data in
  the AMOS flavor.  This function is not part of the Amos method.
  TRACE-GENERATION-FUNCTION is a function of Time that defines the
  form of every trace.  DIP-GENERATION-FUNCTION is a function of X
  and Y that defines the offset of the starting point of each trace
  from zero."
  (loop with array = (make-array (list x-dim y-dim time-dim)
    :type 'art-q)
    for x below x-dim do
    (loop for y below y-dim do
      (loop for time below time-dim do
        (aset (funcall trace-generation-function

```

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```
30
(+ time
  (funcall dip-generation-function
            x y)))
array x y time)))
finally (return array))

(defun DOME-GENERATION-FUNCTION (x y)
  "Defines a dome-like structure that peaks at (X=4,Y=6). suitable for
  use with CREATE-SEISMIC-DATA-ARRAY."
  (* -0.1 (sqrt (+ (* (- x 4) (- x 4))
                     (* (- y 6) (- y 6))))))
```

CLAIMS:

1. A system for automatically producing representations of three-dimensional surfaces from processed data in the form of digital traces, comprising:

(a) means connected to receive the digital traces for 5 identifying events in the digital traces;

(b) means connected to receive the identified events for determining pairs of events that tentatively lie in the same three-dimensional surface represented in a first format;

(c) means responsive to the determined pairs of events for 10 reformatting at least one three-dimensional surface in a second format; and

(storage means connected to receive the second format for storing a representation of the three-dimensional surface.

2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the means for identifying 15 comprises:

means for defining the trace as a series of points in time; means for taking the Nth derivative of the trace at each of the points;

means for identifying the time of the zero-crossings in the 20 Nth derivative; and

means for establishing the amplitude of the trace at the Nth derivative zero-crossing time.

3. The system of Claim 2 wherein the means for taking the Nth derivative comprises means for measuring the slope of the 25 trace at each point as determined by the immediately preceding and following points.

4. The system of Claim 3 wherein the means for establishing the amplitude comprises means for interconnecting the amplitudes of the point preceding and following the zero crossing and 30 marking the amplitude at the crossing of the interconnection with the time of the zero-crossing.

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5. The system of Claim 4 wherein the means for determining pairs of events comprises means for determining pairs of turnings further comprising:

means for comparing the parameters of the turnings in a 5 first trace with the parameters of the turnings in a second trace;

means for comparing the parameters of the turnings in the second trace with the parameters of the turnings in the first trace;

10 means for detecting the differences between the parameters of the first turnings in the trace and the parameters of the turnings in the second trace, and vice versa;

means for pairing those turnings having the smallest differences, thereby designating the mutual nearest neighbor 15 pairs of turnings;

means for repeating the comparison and pairings between adjacent traces throughout the three-dimensional seismic volume; and

means for adding mutual nearest neighbor pairing 20 designations to each turning to form a network of paths of turnings.

6. The system of Claim 5 wherein the parameters compared comprise times of turnings.

7. The system of Claim 6 further comprising means for 25 comparing the signs of the $(N+1)$ th derivatives of the first trace at the turning points with the signs of the $(N+1)$ th derivatives of the second trace, and for preventing the pairing of turnings having unlike signs.

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8. The system of Claim 7 wherein the means for determining pairs of events further comprises:

means for assessing the curvature of each of the paths of turnings of the network in both the X and Y directions;

5 means for determining whether the curvature exceeds a predetermined value for each of the paths of turnings; and

means for terminating any of the paths at the turning where the curvature exceeds the predetermined value.

9. The system of Claim 8 further comprising:

10 means for determining whether a pair of turnings is a link in a closed loop of turnings and for rejecting any pair of turnings that does not constitute a link in a closed loop.

10. The system of Claim 9 wherein the means for assessing comprises means for successively measuring the slope (m_1) of the 15 segment between a turning and a preceding turning, and the slope (m_2) of the segment between the turning and a succeeding turning.

11. The system of Claim 10 wherein the means for determining comprises means for measuring the difference between 20 slopes m_1 and m_2 .

12. The system of Claim 11 wherein the means for terminating comprises means for comparing the difference with a predetermined value and for rejecting the segments if the difference exceeds the predetermined value.

25 13. The system of Claim 12 wherein the means for reformatting comprises:

means for accessing any one of the turnings in the network;

means for accessing every turning linked directly or indirectly to the first accessed turning; and

30 means for establishing at least one parameter for each of the accessed turnings, defining a second format.

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14. The system of Claim 13 further comprising means for rejecting any turning during the accessing that has been previously accessed.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein at least one parameter 5 comprises the address of the corresponding turning in the first format.

16. The system of Claim 14 wherein at least one parameter comprises the time of the corresponding turning in the first format.

10 17. The system of Claim 16 wherein another parameter comprises the amplitude of the corresponding turning in the first format.

18. The system of Claim 17 further comprising indicia means, connected to receive and to manifest a representation of 15 the second format.

19. A method of automatically producing representations of three-dimensional recommended horizons from processed seismic data in the form of digital traces, comprising the steps of:

- (a) identifying turnings in the digital traces;
- 20 (b) determining pairs of identified turnings that tentatively lie in the same horizon represented in a first format;
- (c) reformatting at least one horizon, represented in a second format; and
- 25 (d) storing the second format as a representation of the recommended horizon.

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20. The method of Claim 19 wherein the step of identifying turnings comprises the steps of:

- defining the trace as a series of equally spaced turnings in time;
- 5 taking the Nth derivative of the trace at all of the equally spaced turnings;
- identifying the time of the zero-crossings in the Nth derivative;
- 10 establishing the amplitudes of the traces at the times of the zero-crossings; and
- storing the time and amplitude of the trace at the zero-crossing of the Nth derivative.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of determining pairs comprises the steps of:

- 15 comparing the parameters of the turnings in a first trace with the parameters of the turnings in a second trace;
- comparing the parameters of the turnings in a first trace with the parameters of the turnings in a second trace;
- 20 comparing the parameters of the turnings in the second trace with the parameters of the turnings in the first trace;
- detecting the differences between the parameters of the turnings of the first trace and the parameters of the turnings of the second trace, and vice versa;
- 25 pairing those turnings having the smallest differences thereby designating the mutual nearest neighbor pairs of turnings; and
- repeating the above five steps for all of the traces in the three-dimensional seismic section to form a network of paths of turnings.

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22. The method of Claim 21 wherein the step of determining pairs further comprises the steps of: assessing the curvature of each of the paths of turnings of the network in both the X and Y direction; 5 determining whether the curvature exceeds a predetermined value for each of the paths of turnings; and terminating any of the paths at the turning where the curvature exceeds the predetermined value.

23. The system of Claim 22 wherein the step of reformatting 10 comprises the steps of: accessing any one of the turnings in the network; accessing every turning linked directly or indirectly to the first accessed turning; and establishing at least one parameter for each of the accessed 15 turnings, defining a second format.

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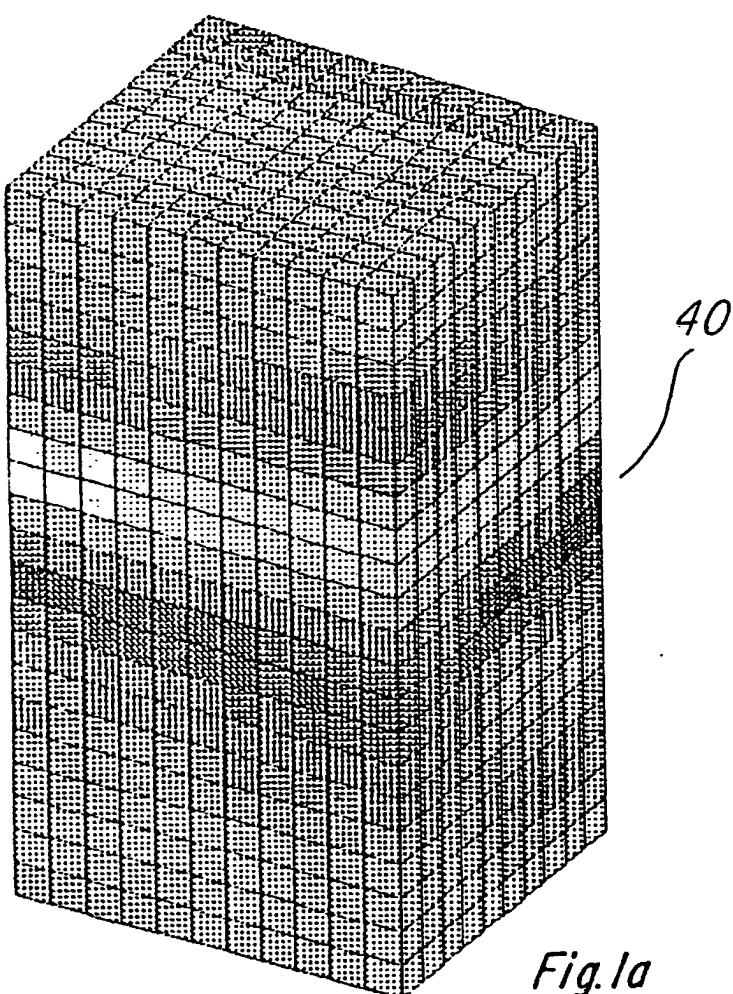


Fig.1a

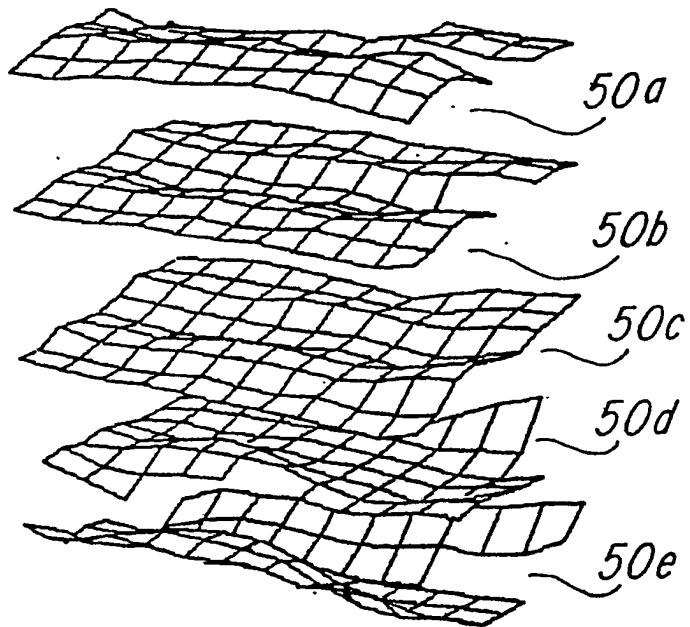


Fig.1b

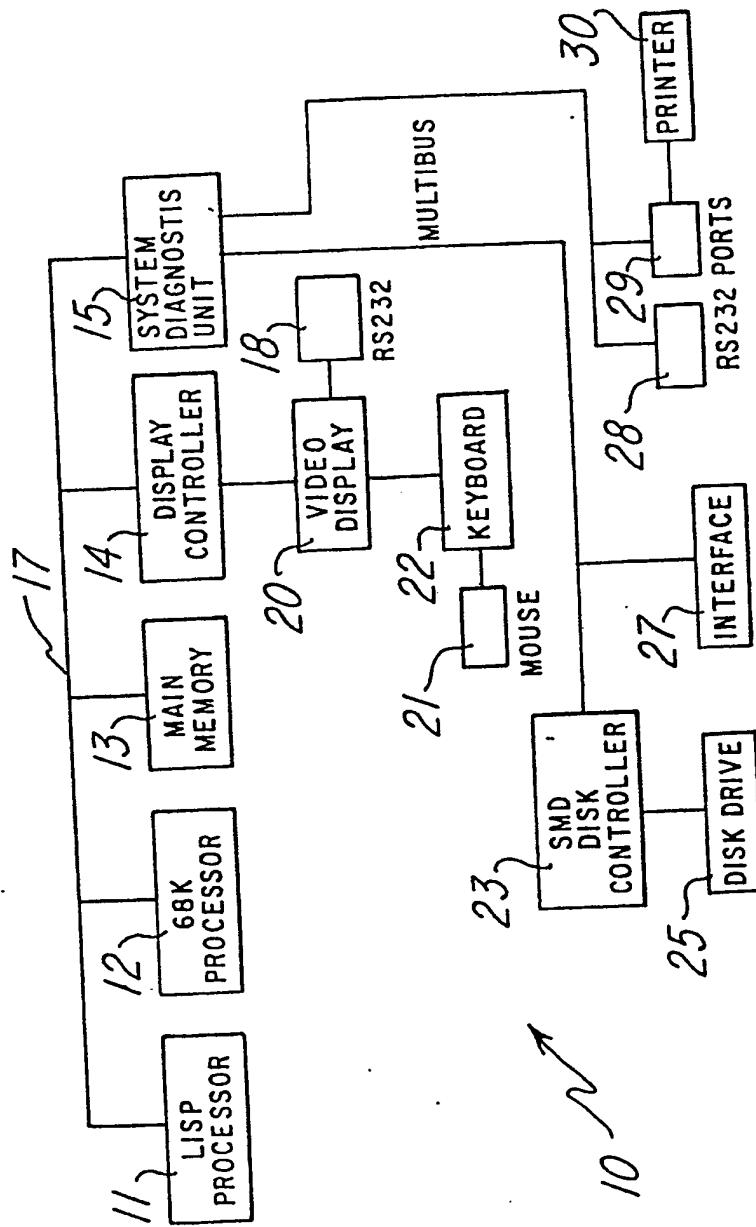


Fig.2

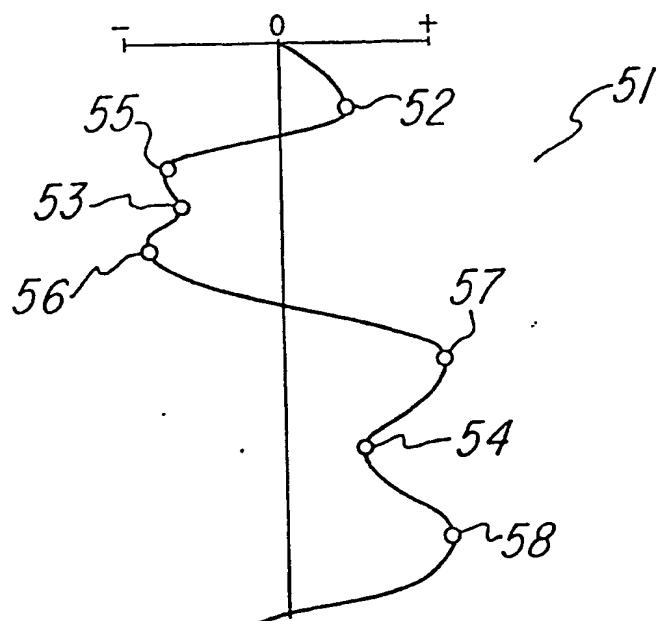


Fig. 3

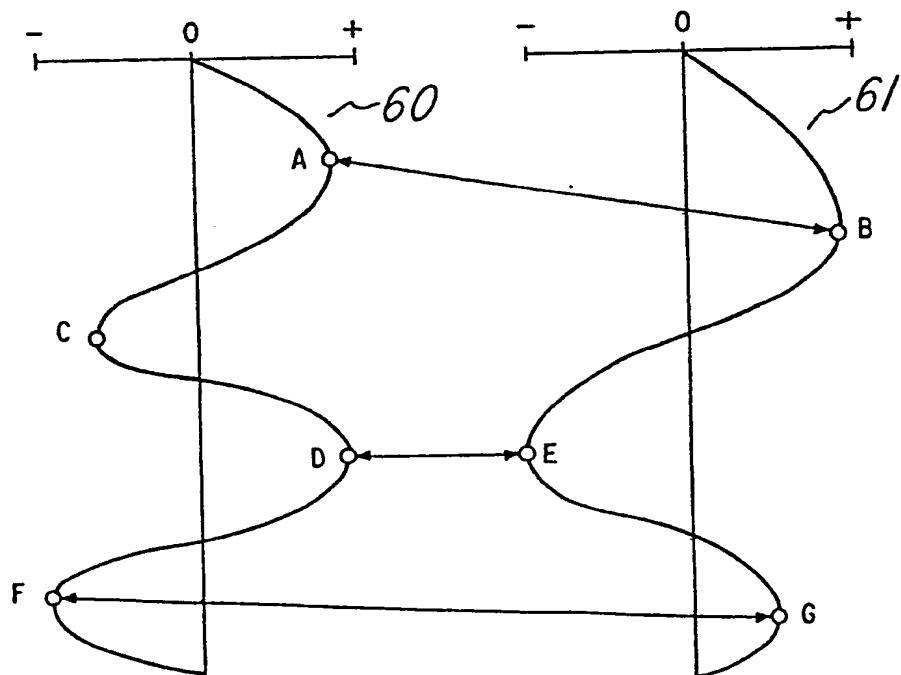


Fig. 4

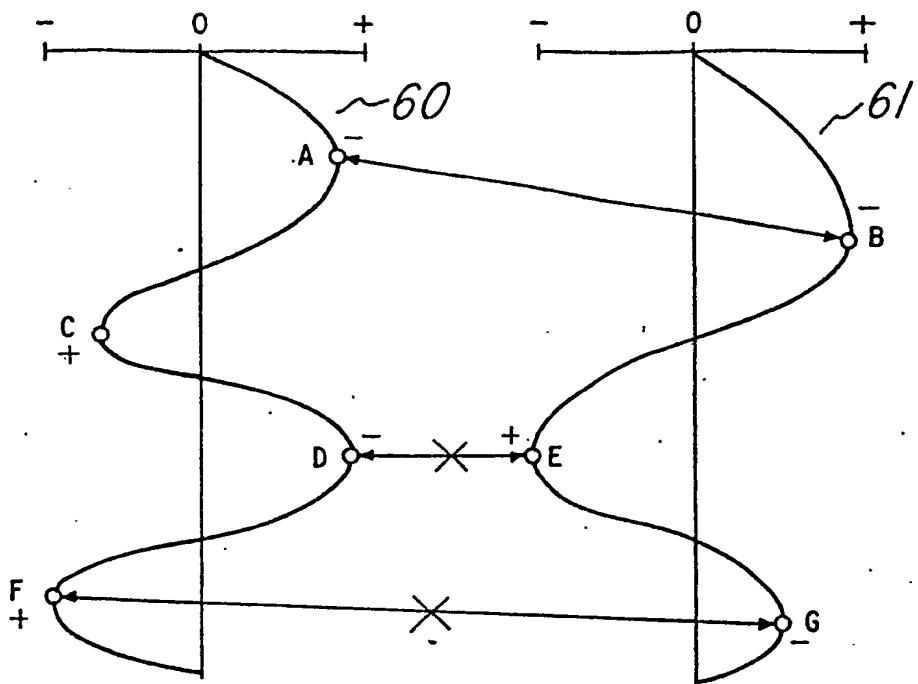


Fig. 5

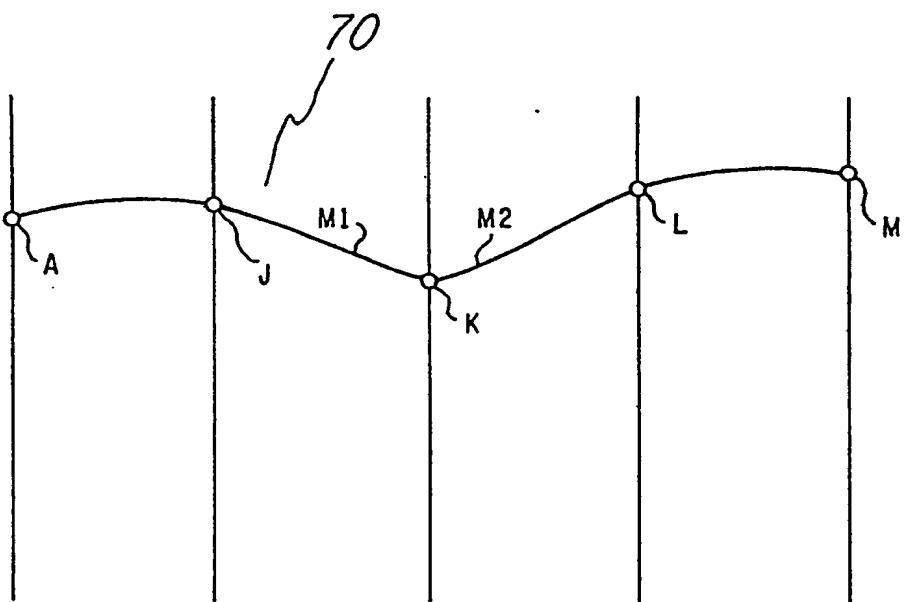


Fig. 7

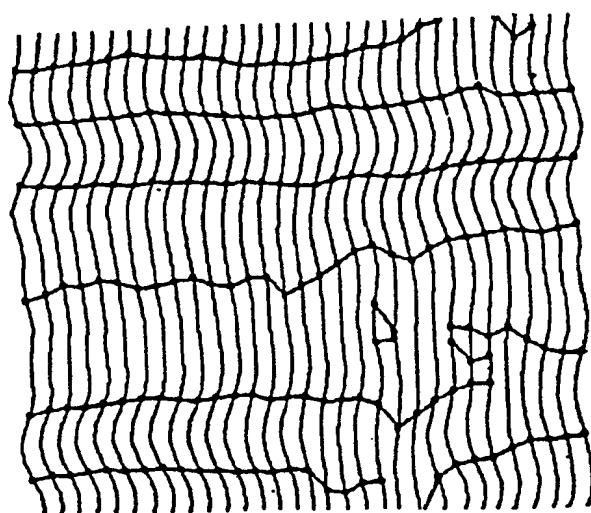


Fig.6a

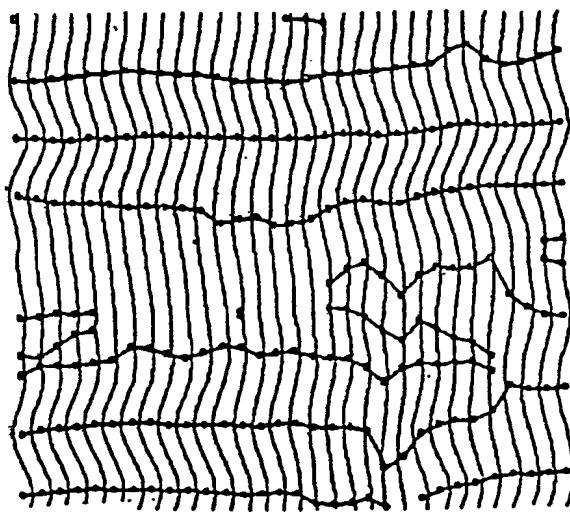


Fig.6b

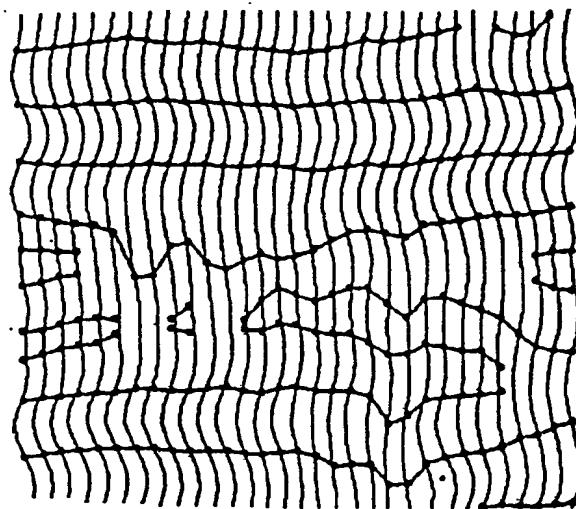


Fig.6c

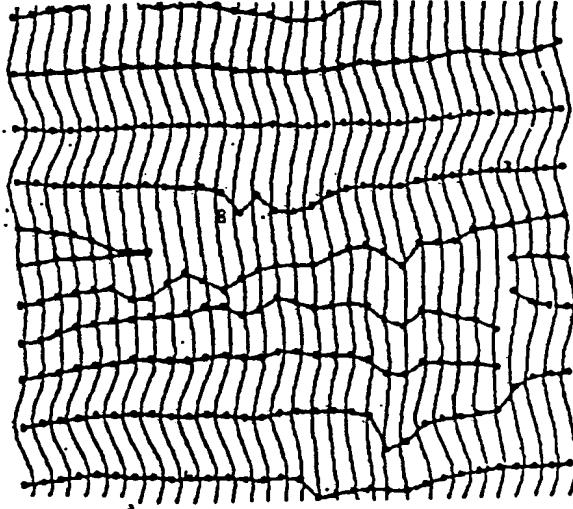


Fig.6d

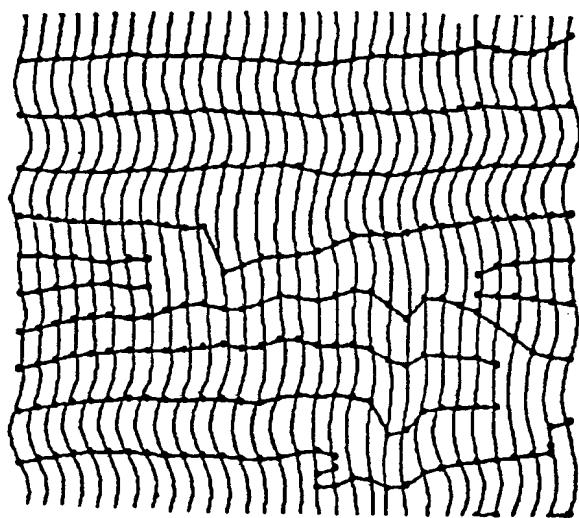


Fig.6e

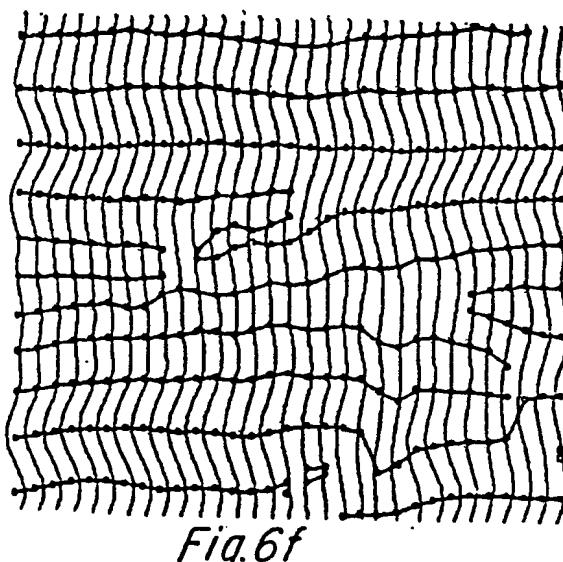


Fig.6f

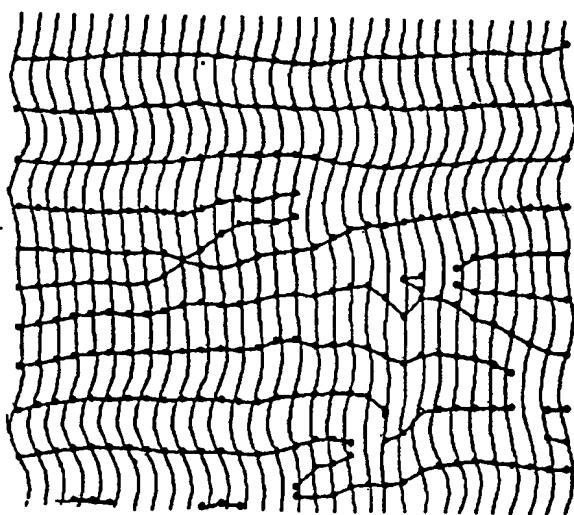


Fig.6g

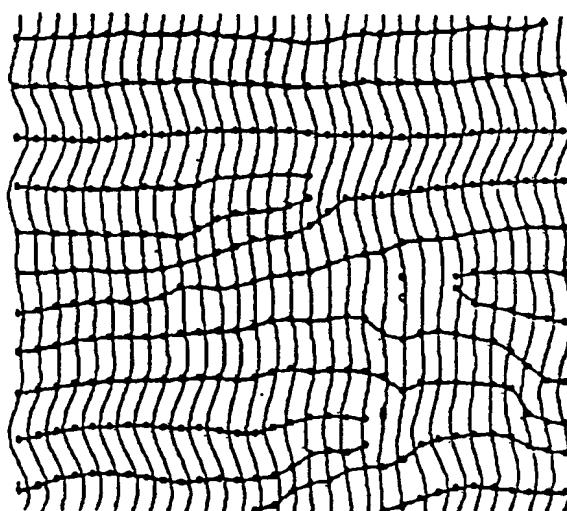


Fig.6h

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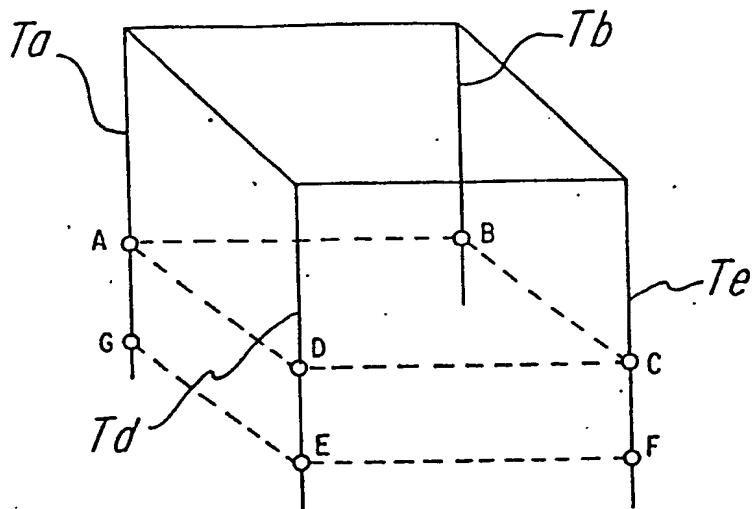


Fig. 8a

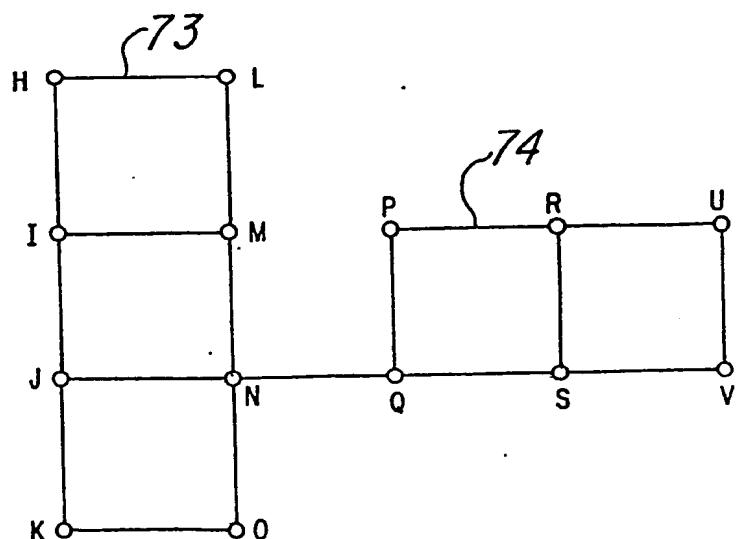


Fig. 8b

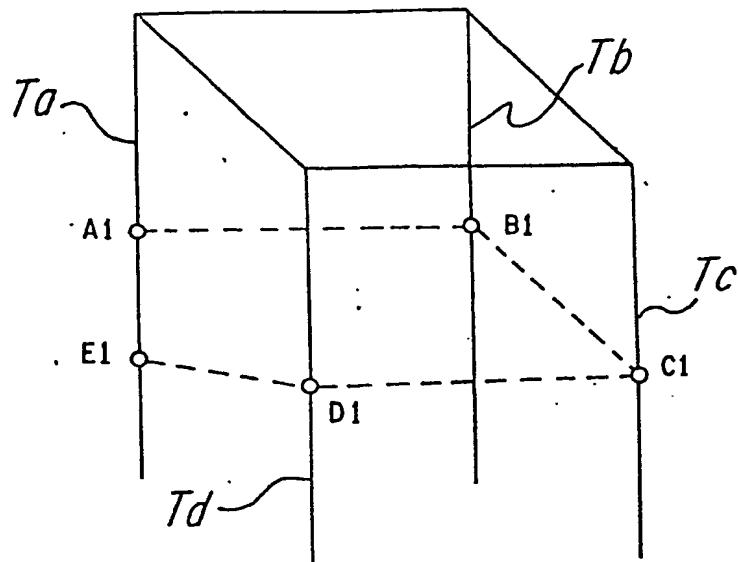


Fig.9

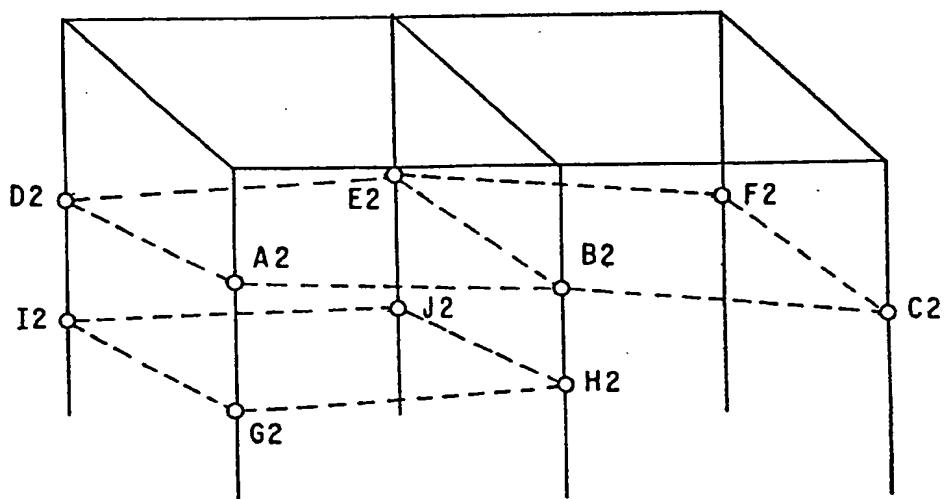


Fig.10

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